Technology Mission on Cotton in A.P.

4349. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present status of Intensive Cotton Development Programme under Technology Mission on Cotton in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) what was the progress regarding distribution of seeds, bio-agents, sprayers, drip irrigation system etc. during the last three years in the State, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Intensive Cotton Development Programme under Mini-Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton is continuing in Andhra Pradesh. During the last three years the area under cotton has been around 10 lakh hectares with production fluctuating around 16 lakh bales per year. However, the productivity levels have not improved much during this period and are around 250—300 kg. Lint per hectare.

(b) The progress under the components of the scheme in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is as under :

Sl. No.	Component	Unit	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1.	Distribution of Certified Seed	Quintal	-	443	24
2.	Supply of Bio-agents	Hectare	-	4916	4731
3.	Supply of Sprayers	Nos.	-	2057	4066
4.	Drip Irrigation System	Nos.	-	20	72

Minimising use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides

4350. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government consider it important to minimis the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on the soil; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The consumption of chemical fertilizers in terms of nutrients is about 90.12 kg/ha during 2001-02 which is not considered high. However, to ensure that there is no ill-effect of any kind due to imbalanced use of plant nutrients, the Government propagates the use of integrated nutrients combining chemical fertilizers, organic manures and biofertilizers on the basis of soil test as per the requirement of the crop.